

## **Rugarama Primary School teams with parents to host student reading competition**

Kigali, Rwanda—Thursday, October 11, 2012

Teachers, parents, and students gathered at Rugarama Primary School in Ruhuha sector in Bugesera for a student reading competition last Wednesday afternoon. The competition aimed to encourage children to read, engage parents and the community in children's reading, and contribute to building a reading culture.

Concern Worldwide, as part of the USAID-funded Literacy, Language, and Learning (L3) Initiative, works together with Ruhuha's Parent Teacher Committee to support community involvement in students' education. According to Kanzayire Olive, Rugarama Primary School headmistress and Parent Teacher Committee secretary, the idea for the event came from the parents and was supported by the committee and the school.

A total of 42 students competed in the school-wide event. Grouped by year, students took turns to come forward to ask for answers to riddles, read short texts aloud, and share poems that they had written. Parents looked on as a panel of judges composed of a Parent Teacher Committee member, a community based trainer, and four teachers scored participants.

Headmistress Kanzayire saw parents' impact firsthand at the competition. "The children who perform well in reading are those who have follow-up," she observed.

Dative Uwitonze, a farmer from Bikoma village, aims to provide such reading follow-up to her two children who attend the school, one of whom competed in the event. She helps her children read their school books and teaches them words from the Bible. "It will help develop the country when they are intelligent," she says. "If parents don't participate, the children will never get knowledge."

Primary 2 student Bonheur's mother taught him to read when he was 5 years old. He reads in the morning at school and in the evening at home with his mother. "Reading makes someone clever," he says. Bonheur received second place in the competition.

Children earn higher grades and are far less likely to drop out of school when their parents are involved. Concern's Edouard Mutabazi suggests that parents give their children time to read and that they ask their children to read to them.

This was the first reading competition at Rugarama Primary School, but it won't be the last. "We want to have them at least four times a year," says Kanzayire.

Uwitonze hopes that this emphasis on reading will help her children. She hopes that they will "continue to study, study further, get jobs, and develop their country."

## **Itsinda ry'ababyeyi n'ishuli ribanza rya Rugarama bateguye irushanwa ryo gusoma**

Kigali, Rwanda – Kuwa kane, 11, Ukwakira 2012

Kuwa gatatu tariki ya 3 Ukwakira 2012, abarimu, ababyeyi n'abanyeshuli b'ishuli ribanza rya Rugarama, rihereye mumurengi wa Ruhuha akarere ka Bugesera bahuriye hamwe mu irushanwa ryo gusoma ryateguriwe abana. Intego y'iryo rushanwa yari ugushishikariza abana kumenya gusoma no gukangurira ababyeyi kugira uruhare muri gahunda zo kubaka umuco wo gusoma no gufasha abana kumenya gusoma neza.

Concern Worldwide Rwanda, nk'umwe mu miryango ishyira mu bikorwa gahunda iterwa inkunga na USAID igamije guteza imbere gusoma no kwandika ( Literacy Learning Language Initiative); yakanguriye ababyeyi gukushishikariza kugira uruhare mu burezi bafasha abana kumenya gusoma no kwandika.

Kanzayire Olive umuyobozi w'ishuli ribanza rya Rugarama akaba n'umwanditsi wa Komite ihuza abarimu n'ababyeyi barerera ku ishuli, yatangaje ko igitekerezo cy'amarushanwa yo gusoma cyaturutse mu babyeyi ubwabo gishyigikirwa na Komite ibahagarariye.

Abana bose bitabiriye irushanwa bari mirongo ine na babiri; bari bibumbiye mu matsinda ane. Abanyeshuri barushanyijwe mu bisakuzo; imyandiko; imigani migufi n'imivugo biyandikiye. Akanama kayoboraga irushanwa kanatanga amanota kari kagizwe n'umubyeyi wo muri Komite ihuza ababyeyi n'abarimu; umufashamyumvire; abarimu bane.

Kanzayire Olive; umuyobozi w'ishuli yagaragaje ko iryo rushanwa rifite akamaro. kuko rigaragaza uruhare rw'ababyeyi. Yagize ati « Umwana utsinda neza kandi ubasha gusoma ni uwa yakurikiranywe kandi yitaweho »

Dativa Uwitonze, umuhinzi utuye mu mudugudu wa Bikoma yatangaje ko we afite intego yo gukurikira imyigire y'abana be abafasha muri gahunda zo gusoma. Umwe mu bana be ni abatsinze iryo rushanwa ryo gusoma. Dativa yatangaje ko afasha abana be mu gusoma bakoresheje ibitabo by'ishuli ndetse n'amagambo yo muri Bibiliya. Yakomeje atangaza ko « *Abana nibamenya gusoma bizatuma igihugu gitera imbere kandi niba ababyeyi badafashije abana muri gahunda zo gusoma; abana ntabwo bamenye gusoma neze bityo ntibagire ubumenyi bukwiriye* »

Bonheur Mukunzi ufite imyaka irindwi; wiga mu wa kabiri w'amashuri abanza avuga ko mama we yatangiye kumwigisha afite imyaka itanu; Mukunzi yavuze na none ko asoma kabiri ku munsu; rimwe ku ishuli ubundi mu rugo ubwo aba afashwa na mama. Mukunzi we mu rugo ubundi ku ishuli. Mukunzi yagize ati « Gusoma bituma umuntu aba umunyabwenge ». Mukunzi nawe yitabiriye irushanwa ryo gusoma maze atsindira umwanya wa kabiri.

Abana batsinda neza mu ishuli usanga kandi badakunda guta ishuli kuko ababyeyi babo baba bakurikirana imyigire yabo

Edouard Mutabazi, umukozi muri Concern Worldwide mu ishamba ry'uburezi yasabye ababyeyi guha abana umwanya wo gusoma mu rugo kandi ababyeyi bagasaba abana babo kubasomera kugirango barebe intabwo batara mu bigendanye no gusoma.

Kanzayire Olive, umuyobozi w'ishuli yagize ati « Iri niryo rushanwa rya mbere ryo gusoma ku ishuli ribanza rya Rugarama ariko ntabwo ari irya nyuma.” Turifuza byibura kujya dutegura amarushanwa yo gusoma incuro enye mu mwaka»

Uwironze umubyeyi urerera ku ishuli rya Rugaramma yizera ko gahunda zitegurwa zo gusoma zitatuma abana be bakomeza kwiga bakaminuza hanyuma bakabona akazi bagateza imbere igihugu cyabo”.